

D) Please amend the ABSTRACT as set forth below:

ABSTRACT

5           A security tag includes a tag body and an attaching pin for attaching  
the tag body to a protected article. The security tag further includes a locking  
mechanism for releasably preventing the attaching pin from being removed  
from the protected article. The locking mechanism is provided for  
mechanically or magnetically released the attaching pin for detaching the tag  
10 body from the article. In a preferred embodiment, the locking mechanism  
further includes a plurality of balls for tightly holding to the attaching pin for  
releasably preventing the attaching means from being removed from the  
article. ~~In a preferred embodiment, the~~ The locking mechanism ~~further~~  
15 includes a mechanical unlocking probe finger for applying a mechanical force  
to release the balls from the attaching pin ~~whereby the attaching pin may be~~  
~~released and detached from the tag body. In a preferred embodiment, the~~ The  
locking mechanism further includes an unlocking magnet for applying a  
magnet force to release the balls from the attaching pin ~~whereby the attaching~~  
20 ~~pin may be released and detached from the tag body.~~

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